Sustainability and Civic Engagement: Moving from inside to outside of the classroom



Sarah Surak, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Political Science and Environmental Studies Co-Director, The Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement



The Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE)

- Founded in 1999
- Nonpartisan organization

PACE Mission Statement: As a non-partisan institute at Salisbury University, PACE cultivates a more informed, democratic citizenry that promotes good governance on campus, local, state, and federal levels.



Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement Education: "explicitly teaches the knowledge, skills and values believed necessary for democratic citizenship" (Kahne and Middaugh 2009, 141)

Disciplinary Literacy

Language, questions, and purposes of the disciplines differ according to the ontology, epistemology, and goals of the discipline

Social Responsibility

The responsibility that certain people have to their communities

- Youniss and Yates (1997)



Civic Engagement Across the Curriculum

Ten-week seminar Seventy-five minute meetings

Successful completion:

- Revised syllabus
- Civic engagement assignment overview
- \$500 stipend for scholarship
- Ongoing research program





CEAC: Connecting Goals and Outcomes

Best practices:

- Across the educational experience
- Support faculty in promotions
- Base in reciprocal relationships



Key components of Civic Engagement

- Community-based knowledge
- Experiential and reflexive teaching and learning
- Active participation in democratic practices
- Structural/institutional change efforts



Civic Engagement and Sustainability Environmental Studies Senior Seminar

- Senior seminar components
 - Career readiness
 - Environmental citizenship
 - Capstone project
- Faculty selected project
 - Engage a community issue
 - Prepare students for work in the environmental field





Civic Engagement and Sustainability Environmental Studies Senior Seminar

Example Projects:

- Wicomico County <u>climate change website</u>
- Ongoing partnership with the Town of Berlin
- Support Wicomico County forests
- Local environmental history documentation
- Non-profit partnerships
- Supporting SU's Naticoke River Field Station programming





Civic Engagement and Sustainability Political Science 440: Public Administration

- ******CEAC Revised Course
- <u>City Recycling Engagement Project</u>
- Goals:
 - Develop an informed understanding of the impacts of public administrators in daily life
 - Examine the intersection among politics and administration
 - Engage the local community and further enhance your understanding of local government





Civic Engagement and Sustainability Environmental Studies 305: Environmental Conflict

- ******CEAC revised course
- Worked with editors to identify high priority areas of the <u>Environmental Justice Atlas</u>
- Students conducted research and developed case studies
- Results published online and presented via poster and multimodal presentation





Future Opportunities

Civic Engagement Resources: www.salisbury.edu/PACE

Civic Engagement Across the Curriculum -- Accessable for USM schools (Spring 2020)

Center for Civic Reflection: civicreflection.org Now facilitated by PACE at Salisbury University







Salisbury

A Maryland University of National Distinction